

Attachment 4.11(c)(1)

Goals and Priorities

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) derived the goals listed below from the needs identified through the 2011 Comprehensive Needs Assessment as seen in Attachment 4.11(a). MDRS has attempted to develop goals that will address the transportation and job training needs of consumers and improve public awareness of disability. Through these goals and priorities MDRS anticipates an impact that will improve services and outcomes for people with disabilities. During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011, MDRS met all the standards and indicators. MDRS continues to strive to meet these goals annually through the management of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (VRB) Programs.

Goal I: Improve access to transportation for employment for individuals with disabilities.

Strategies:

1. Continue to identify current transportation resources at the local and state level.
2. Update a Community Transportation Resource Guide that will be distributed to VR staff, VRB staff, and consumers through accessible media, including the agency website, as needed.
3. Continue to identify local transportation boards and/or initiatives to bring awareness regarding need and access to accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities at local meetings.
4. Participate on and become involved in local transportation boards and/or initiatives to bring awareness regarding the needs for accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities at local meetings.
5. Measure the amount of transportation services planned on the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) for clients during the FFY
6. Develop natural transportation support networks for consumers.

Goal II: Increase training opportunities for VR consumers, including community rehabilitation program services, customized employment, apprenticeships, and internships.

Strategies:

1. Provide professional development training to VR and VRB staff regarding the available training resources (vocational and educational) and what training is appropriate for clients of various disabilities.

2. Increase utilization of the state's personal adjustment center for the blind, the Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, as measured by annual census of the center.
3. Training opportunities for VR and VRB consumers will be measured by automated case management system data to include vocational, post-secondary, specialized classes, community rehabilitation program services, and job coach services.
4. Policies specific to Internships and Apprenticeships will be developed for implementation for case services. Training will be provided on the new policies.
5. Vendors providing Customized Employment services will be sought out for service delivery.

Goal III: Improve public awareness of disability to the general public, employers, and other stakeholders

Strategies:

1. Obtain and distribute educational resources and reference materials regarding disabilities through MDRS.
2. Develop a campaign to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
3. Provide speakers at relevant meetings, functions, and events to discuss disability.